

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the substance of claim 6 therein, claim 6 being canceled. The claims are further amended to address the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection and claim objection and to conform them more to usual U.S. practice. Support for the new dependent claims is found throughout the specification, for example, at page 8, lines 12-14; page 11, lines 22-23; page 12, lines 29-35; page 12, line 39, to page 13, line 4; page 16, lines 4-8; page 26, lines 11-14

To the extent that the amendments avoid the prior art or for other reasons related to patentability, competitors are warned that the amendments are not intended to and do not limit the scope of equivalents which may be asserted on subject matter outside the literal scope of any patented claims but not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art or otherwise unpatentable to applicants. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuing and/or divisional applications directed to any subject matter disclosed in the application which has been canceled by any of the above amendments.

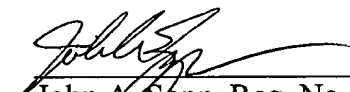
It is believed that the above amendments render all of the outstanding rejections/objections moot. Claims 6 and 10 are canceled rendering the objection and 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection moot. The subject matter of claim 6, which was not included in any of the five 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejections is now incorporated into claim 1 (and thus all the claims). Thus, all of the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejections should be rendered moot as well.

It is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. However, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any unresolved matters.

Serial No. 09/868,866
May 5, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated December 4, 2002

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket No.: MERCK-2268

Date: May 5, 2003

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